

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, 21, 26, and 31 are independent claims. Claims 1, 5-6, 8, and 12-13 stand rejected and Claims 2-4, 7-11, and 14 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 15-35 and the indication that Claims 2-4, 7-11, and 14 would be allowed if rewritten in independent format. This Amendment cancels or amends certain claims, and adds new claims to the application.

Rejections under Section 102

Claims 1, 6, 8, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,655,524 to Atkins and Claims 1, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,996,625 to Collado.

The rejections based on Atkins are traversed because Atkins does not disclose or suggest a fitting extending through an outer body to engage an inner element. It is noted that the inner element referenced by the Office is a movable piston (20) that slides within a cavity (9). (Atkins, col. 3, ll. 46-52, and FIG. 3). Of course, if the piston (20) were to be engaged with the gas fitting (7), the piston (20) would not slide or operate as a piston.

Nevertheless, independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the limitation from objected Claims 2 and 9. These amendments overcome any rejections based on Atkins or Collado.

Reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under Section 103

Claims 8 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. Atkins and Claims 8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Collado.

The rejections based on Atkins are traversed for the same reasons discussed above. Regardless, the amendments to Claims 1 and 8 overcome the outstanding rejections.

Reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New Claims 36-60 are added to the application by way of this amendment. Claims 36 and 37 parallel Claims 25 and 30 and depend from Claims 1 and 8. Claims 38-43 are method claims that parallel allowed apparatus Claims 15-20. Claims 44-48 are method claims that parallel allowed apparatus Claims 31-35. New Claims 49-60 are apparatus and method claims that recite the use of a gas fitting to secure a flowmeter within the outer body. As for new Claims 49-60, it is noted that Collado does not discuss engaging a flowmeter (9) with a fitting (8). No new matter is being added by way of these amendments.

Acceptance and allowance of Claims 36-60 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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